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INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 7428
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EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - KOSOVO INDEPENDENCE

¶1. LEAD STORIES: Most papers gave top play to the arrest on Tuesday of an employee of a Japanese securities firm and his two acquaintances on suspicion of insider trading.

¶2. "Kosovo Independence Causes Another Tragedy" A Vienna correspondent of the business-oriented Nikkei argued (4/23): "... In Kosovo, the construction of the nation is steadily proceeding, as the parliament approved the Constitution and the U.S. and UK opened their diplomatic missions in the capital city of Pristina. However, a sense of victimization among the Serbs appears to be spreading and their animosity against the international community and the Albanians, who form an ethnic majority in the nation, seems to have grown... Although Kosovo has declared independence, some problems remain unsolved and the independence caused another tragedy there. The hasty approach by the U.S. and European nations toward the independence of Kosovo appears to have caused the fluid situation in the nation... Problems of Kosovo give us a lesson that potential crises will never be resolved unless strong measures to reduce inter-ethnic frictions and promote economic reconstruction are implemented."

SCHIEFFER